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MAY 22 2007

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Claims 1-13 have been canceled. Claims 14-16 remain pending in the application.

Applicants amend claims 14-16 for clarification, and refer to Figs. 2 and 6, together with their corresponding description—including page 9, line 23—in the specification, for exemplary embodiments of and support for the claimed invention. No new matter has been added.

Claims 14-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,574,216 to Farris et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,064,653 to Farris. Applicants amend claims 14-16 in a good faith effort to clarify the invention as distinguished from the cited references, and respectfully traverse the rejection.

Farris et al., as cited and relied upon by the Examiner, only describe a connection between stations 11 and 15 being switched from the Internet and PSTN, and, thus, fail to disclose or suggest a called party having a first terminal for the Internet and a second terminal for a public telephone network, where the second terminal is rung when a connection over the Internet is terminated and a call connection is re-originated through the public telephone network to the second terminal. The Examiner relied upon Farris as a combining reference that allegedly suggests disconnecting an established call connection via PSTN and re-routing the call “from the PSTN to a data network, when the condition of the data network improves.” As such, the addition of this reference would still have failed to suggest the claimed features with respect to the first and second terminals, and ringing the second terminal when re-originating a call through the public telephone network to the second terminal.

In other words, even assuming, arguendo, that it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the claimed invention was made to combine Farris et al. and Farris, such a combination would still have failed to disclose or suggest,

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“[a]n exchange comprising:

a first trunk that is connectable to an Internet gateway that includes a voice processing part for converting voice into packet data;

a second trunk that is connectable to a public telephone network;

a switch control part for controlling the exchange to switch a route of a call from a network to another network;

a re-origination control part for controlling the exchange to re-originate a call after switching the route; and

a memory for storing a telephone number of a called party that is received from a calling party;

wherein:

when a connection has been established to the Internet gateway via the first trunk, the switch control part causes the exchange to disconnect a connection to the Internet gateway via the first trunk and to release the first trunk in response to pushing a button by a caller of the calling party after a flash operation by the caller during a telephone call to a first terminal of the called party via the Internet via the first trunk, and wherein the re-origination control part thereafter causes the exchange to re-originate a call of the calling party to a second terminal of the called party via the public telephone network via the second trunk by using the telephone number of the called party stored in the memory so as to ring the second terminal of the called party; and

when a connection has been established to the public telephone network via the second trunk, the switch control part causes the exchange to disconnect a connection to the public telephone network via the second trunk and to release the second trunk in response to pushing a button by the caller of the calling party after a flash operation by the caller during a telephone call to the second terminal of the called party via the public telephone network via the second trunk, and wherein the re-origination control part thereafter causes the exchange to re-originate a call of the calling party to the first terminal of the called party via the Internet gateway via the first trunk by using the telephone number of the called party stored in the memory,” as recited in claim 14.  
(Emphasis added)

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 14 is patentable over Farris et al. and Farris, separately and in combination, for at least the foregoing reasons. Claim 15 and 16

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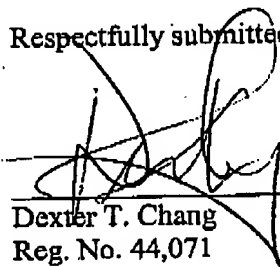
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include features corresponding to those of claim 14 cited above and are, therefore, patentable over the cited references for at least the same reasons.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Dexter T. Chang  
Reg. No. 44,071

CUSTOMER NUMBER 026304

Telephone: (212) 940-6384

Fax: (212) 940-8986 or 8987

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